



# VAISHNO DEVI

GODDESS OF THE HILLS

Vol 829





## The route to your roots

When they look back at their formative years, many Indians nostalgically recall the vital part Amar Chitra Katha picture books have played in their lives. It was **ACK – Amar Chitra Katha** – that first gave them a glimpse of their glorious heritage.

Since they were introduced in 1967, there are now over 400 Amar Chitra Katha titles to choose from. Over 100 million copies have been sold worldwide.

Now the Amar Chitra Katha titles are even more widely available in **1000+ bookstores all across India**. Log on to [www.ack-media.com](http://www.ack-media.com) to locate a bookstore near you. If you do not have access to a bookstore, you can buy all the titles through our online store [www.amarchitrakatha.com](http://www.amarchitrakatha.com). We provide quick delivery anywhere in the world.

To make it easy for you to locate the titles of your choice from our treasure trove of titles, the books are now arranged in six categories.

## Epics and Mythology

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

### Indian Classics

### Enchanting tales from Indian literature

### Fables and Humour

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

## Bravehearts

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

## Visionaries

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

### Contemporary Classics

The Best of Modern Indian literature

Script : Aruna Balakrishna Singh

Illustrations and cover : Durgesh Velhal

Colour & Layout : Adarsh Achari, Anil Kumar M. & Subramanian

## Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 1977. Reprinted September 2016.

ISBN 978-81-8482-630-2

Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 201 & 202, Sumer Plaza,  
2nd Floor, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400 059, India  
Printed at Zirius Images Pvt. Ltd., Thane-401 104.

Printed at Zirius Images Pvt. Ltd, Thane- 401 104.

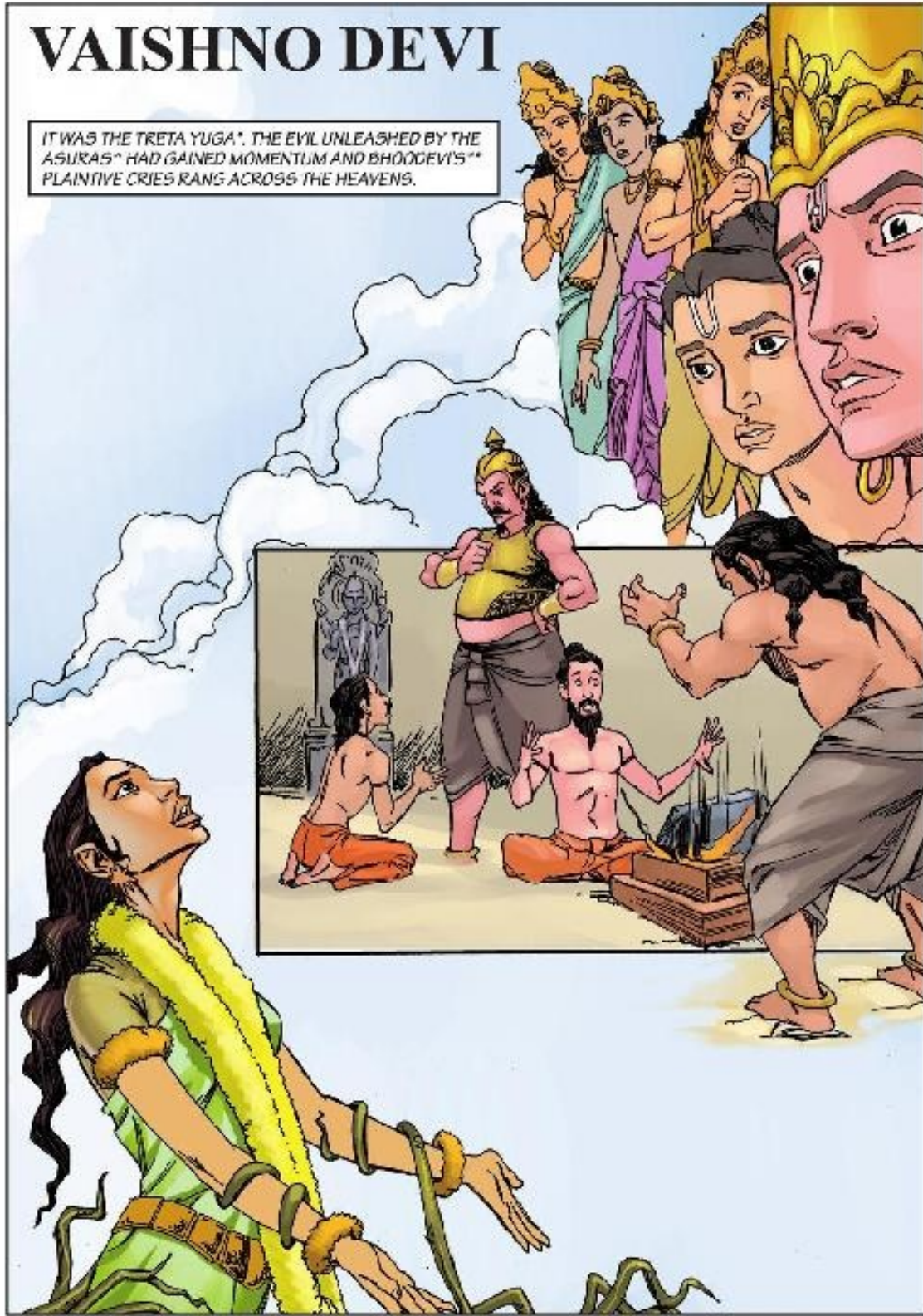
For Consumer Complaints Contact: Tel : 491-72 49188881/82/83/84

Email: [customerservice@ack-media.com](mailto:customerservice@ack-media.com)

This book is sold subject to the condition that the publication may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system (including but not limited to computers, disks, external drives, electronic or digital devices, e-readers, websites), or transmitted in any form or by any means (including but not limited to photocopying, photocopying, scanning, or other reprographic reproductions, mechanical, recording, electronic, digital versions) without the prior written permission of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

# VAISHNO DEVI

IT WAS THE TRETA YUGA\*. THE EVIL UNLEASHED BY THE ASURAS\*\* HAD GAINED MOMENTUM AND BHODEVI'S\*\* PLAINTIVE CRIES RANG ACROSS THE HEAVENS.



\* THE SECOND YUGA OR AGE. IT FOLLOWS SATYA YUG.  
\*\* DEMONS.

\*\* THE EARTH



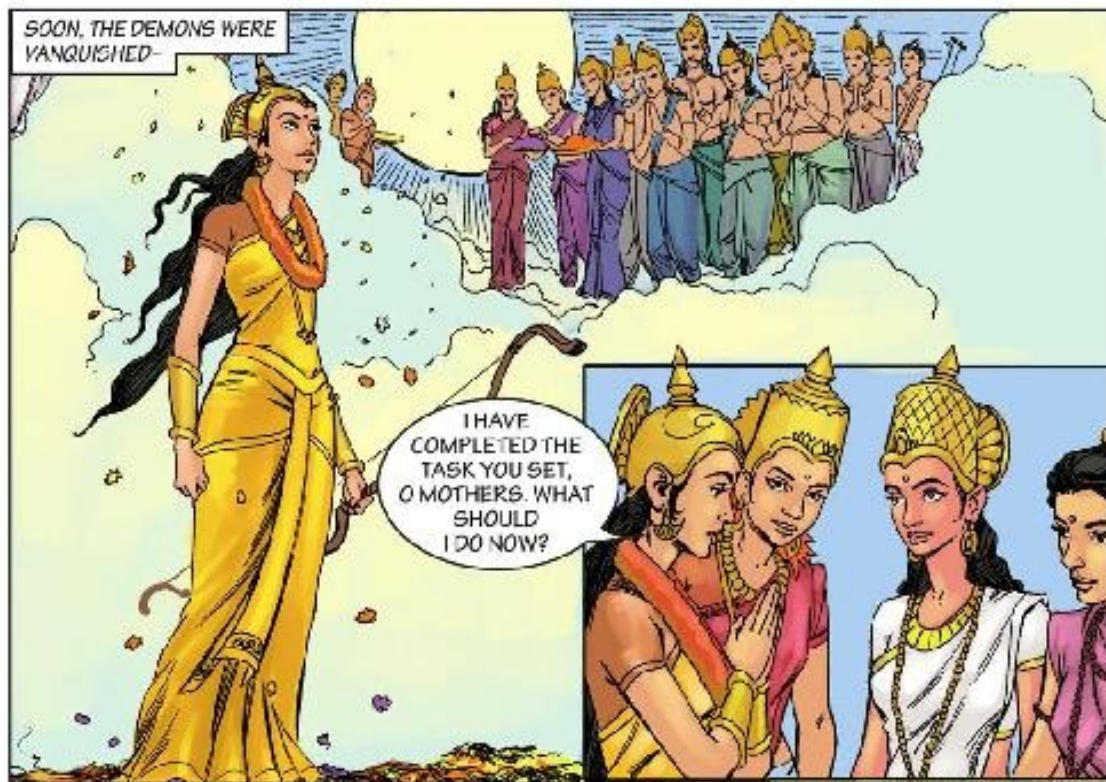
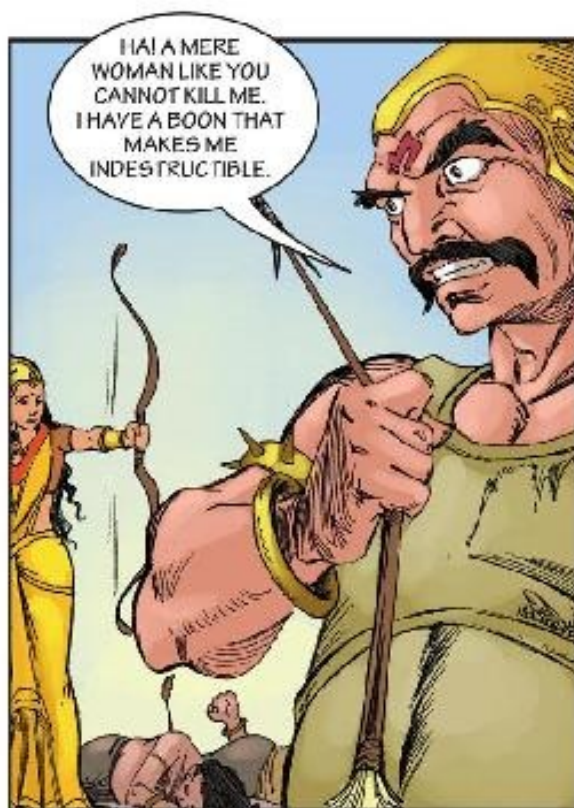


\* SARASWATI, LAKSHMI AND PARVATI

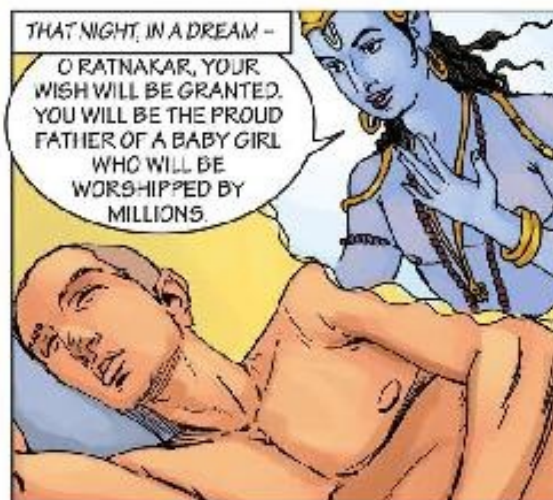
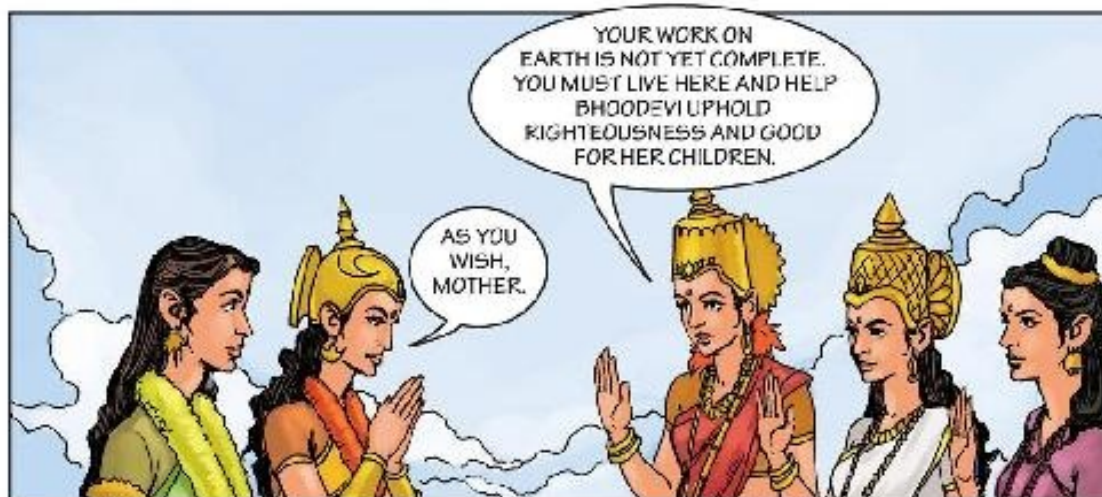










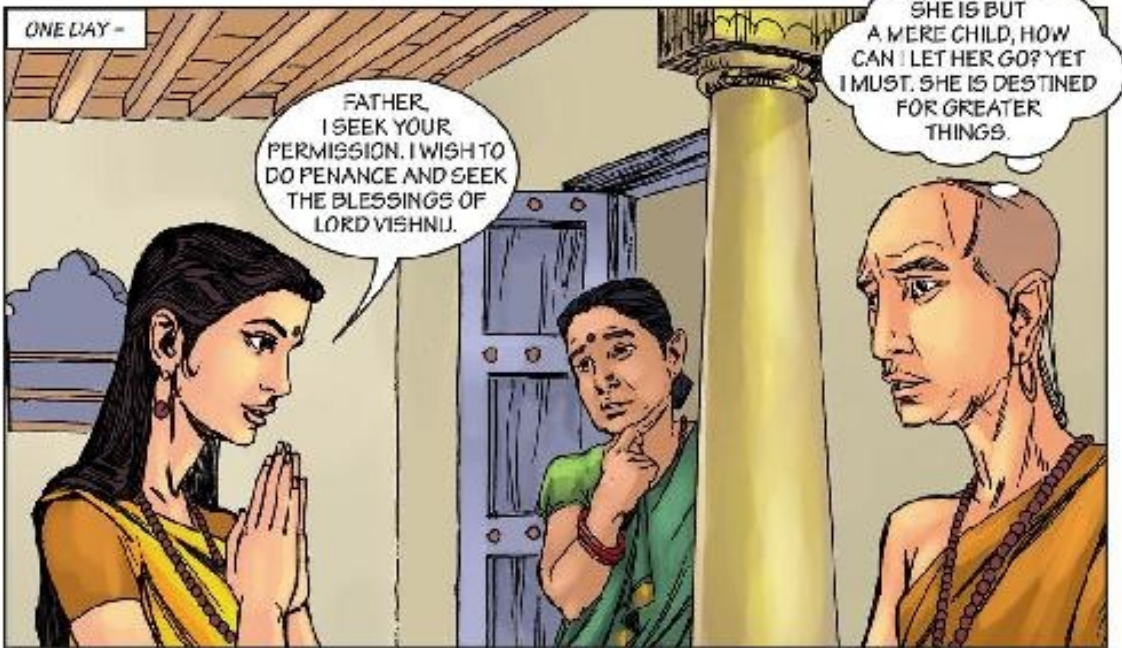




TRIKUTA GREW UP TO BE AN ACCOMPLISHED AND BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN.



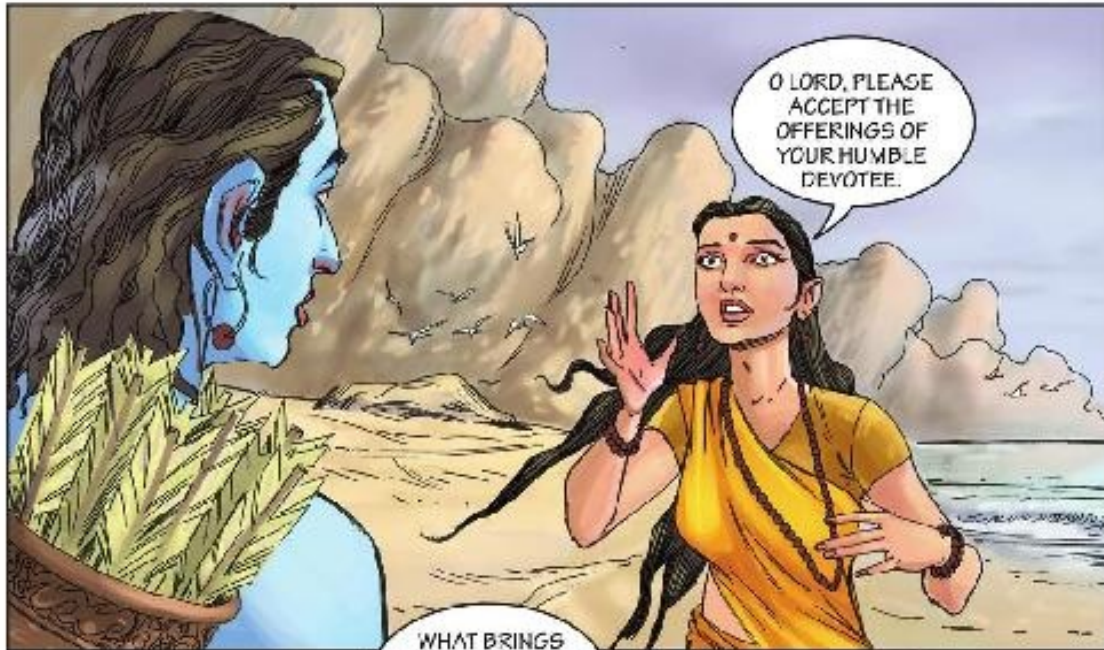
ONE DAY -













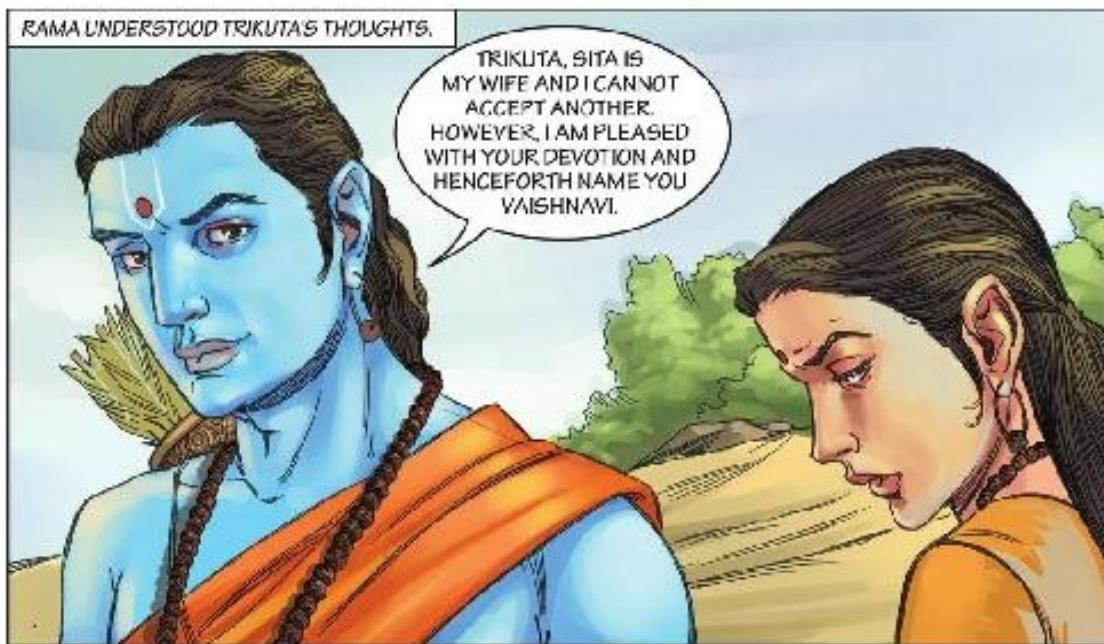
UPON HEARING THIS, TRIKUTA'S FACE FELL.

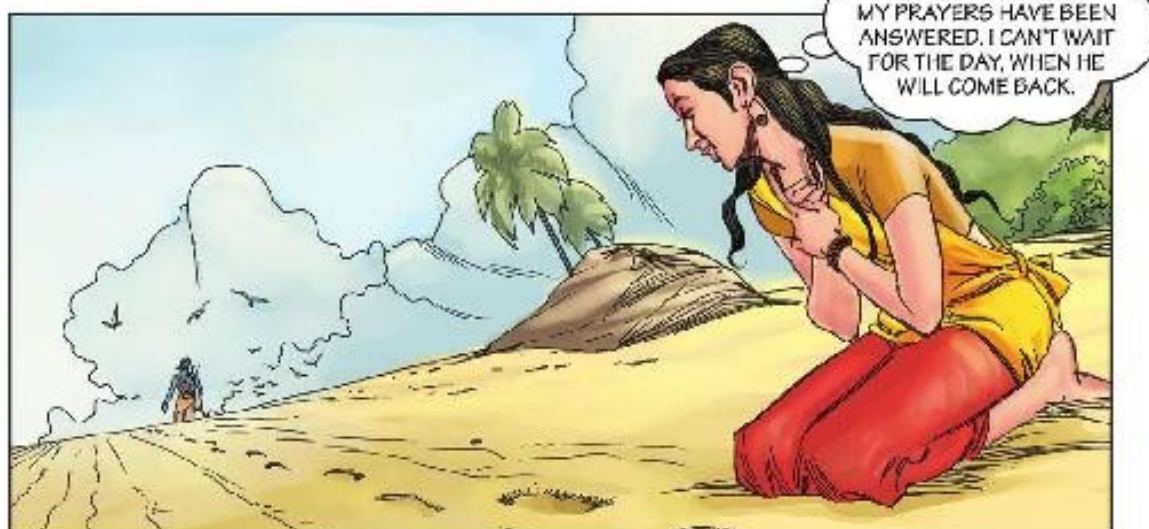
MY LORD  
ALREADY HAS  
A WIFE! WILL HE  
ACCEPT ME  
AS WELL?



RAMA UNDERSTOOD TRIKUTA'S THOUGHTS.

TRIKUTA, SITA IS  
MY WIFE AND I CANNOT  
ACCEPT ANOTHER.  
HOWEVER, I AM PLEASED  
WITH YOUR DEVOTION AND  
HENCEFORTH NAME YOU  
VAISHNAVI.







VAISHNAVI AWAITED HER  
LORD'S RETURN.



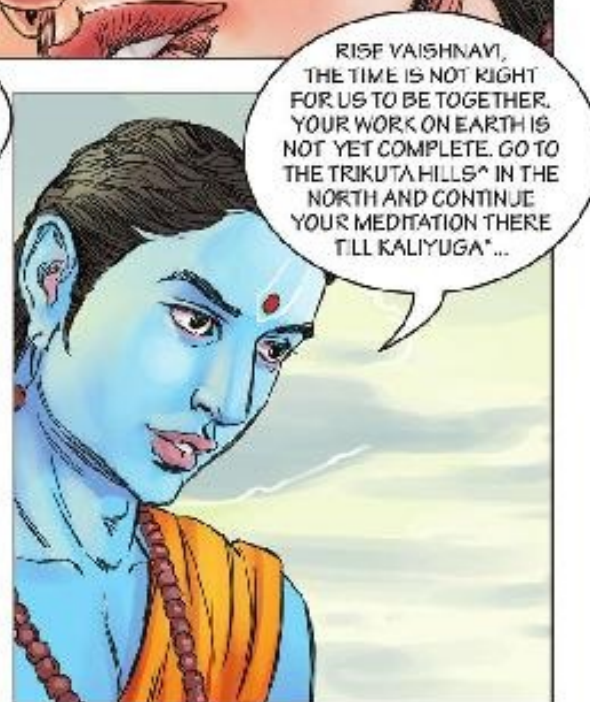
ONE DAY-







AS SOON AS SHE UTTERED THE WORDS, VAISHNAVI REALISED HER FOLLY.



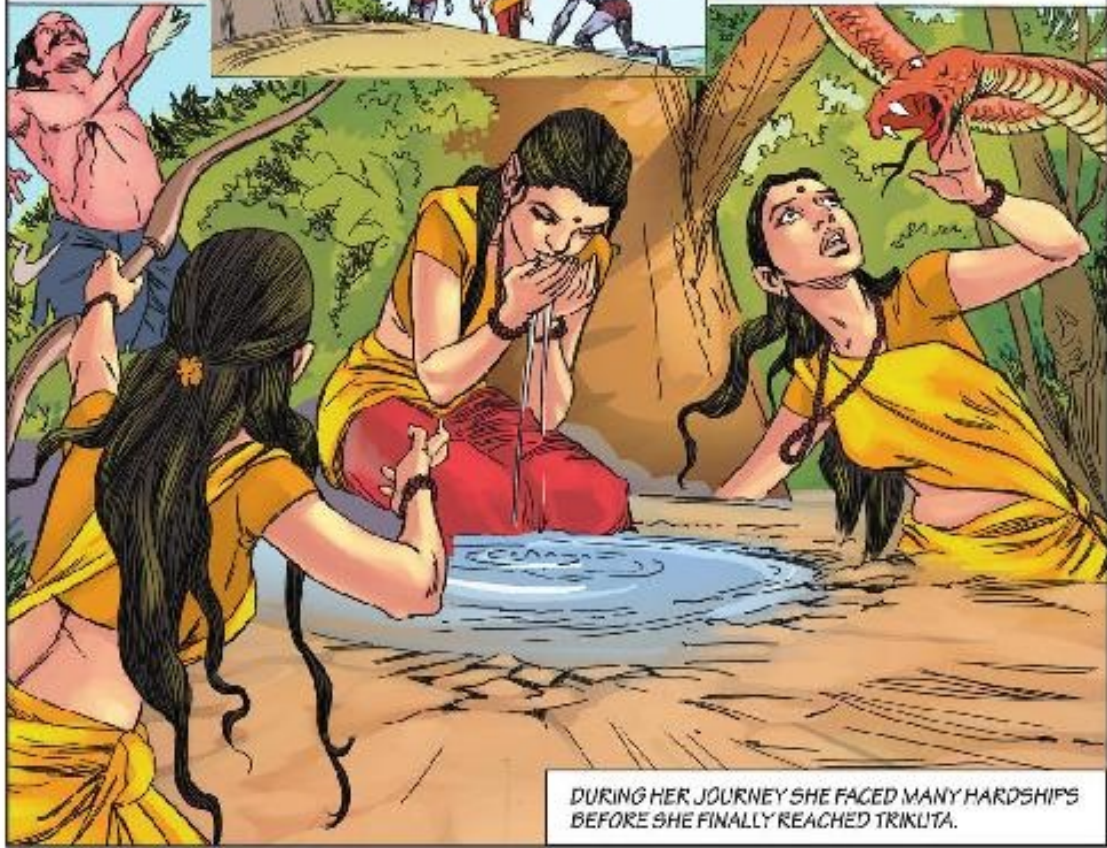
\* IN MODERN DAY JAMMU.

\* LAST OF THE FOUR YUGAS - THE AGE OF DESTRUCTION.



...WHEN WE  
SHALL BE UNITED  
AGAIN. TILL THEN, YOUR  
FAME WILL SPREAD FAR  
AND WIDE AND THOSE  
WHO COME TO YOU WILL  
BE FREED FROM  
SUFFERING.

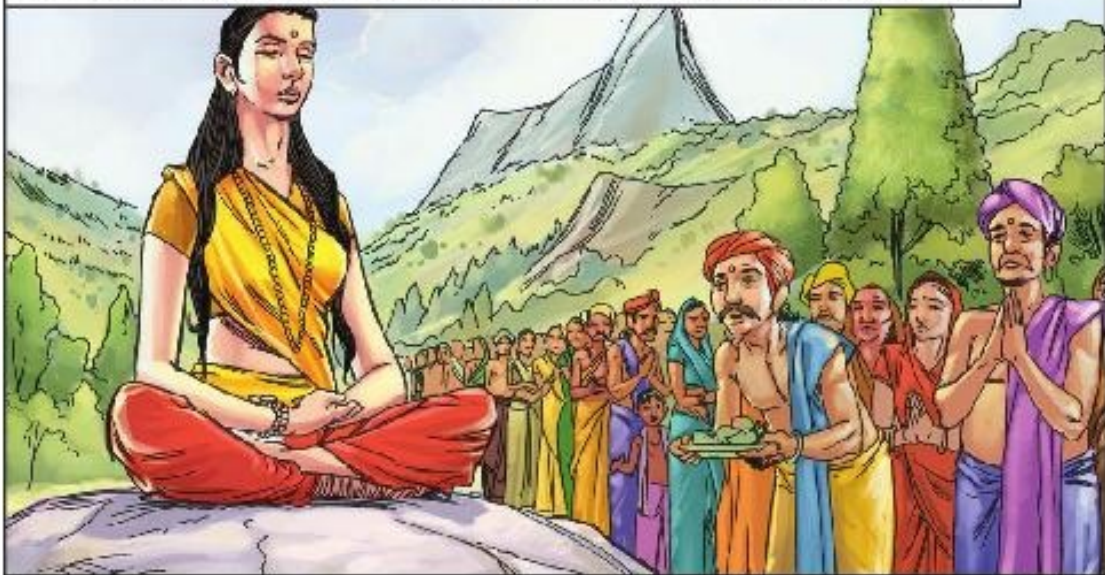
HEEDING THE ADVICE OF RAMA, VAISHNAVI  
HEADED FOR THE TRIKUTA HILLS.



DURING HER JOURNEY SHE FACED MANY HARDSHIPS  
BEFORE SHE FINALLY REACHED TRIKUTA.



AS PREDICTED BY RAMA, VAISHNAVI'S FAME SPREAD FAR AND WIDE AND DEVOTEES FLOCKED TO HER.



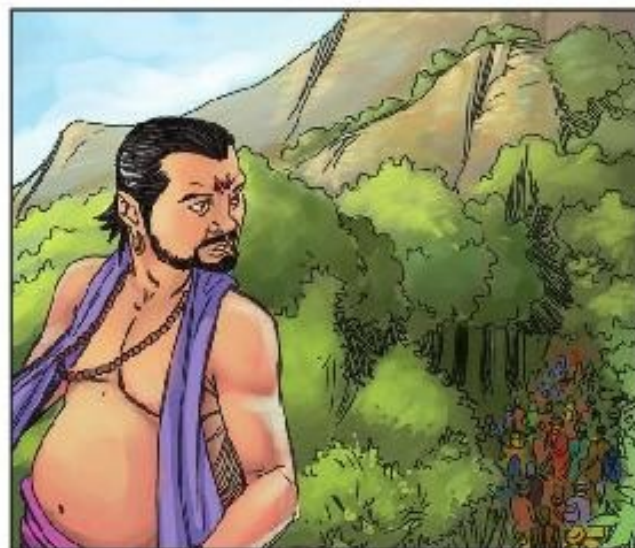
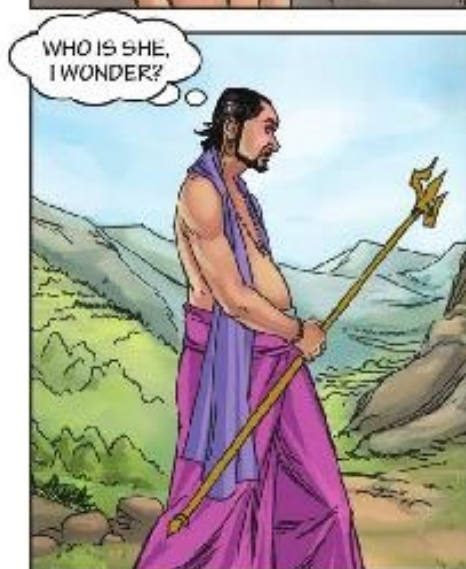
AS TIME PASSED, STORIES ABOUT VAISHNAVI REACHED THE EARS OF A TANTRIK\* CALLED GORAK NATH.



WITH HIS POWERS, GORAK NATH CAME TO KNOW OF VAISHNAVI'S MEETING WITH RAMA.









HOWEVER, WHEN HE SET EYES ON VAISHNAVY -



AH! HER  
BEAUTY  
BLINDS ME!



I MUST  
MAKE HER  
MY WIFE.





WHEN EVERYONE HAD LEFT -

VAISHNAVI,  
I AM STRUCK BY  
YOUR BEAUTY AND  
VIRTUE. BE MY WIFE  
WILLINGLY OR  
I WILL CARRY YOU  
AWAY BY FORCE.



HOW DARE YOU  
SPEAK TO ME LIKE  
THAT! MY HEART IS  
SET ON VISHNU AND  
ONLY HE WILL BE MY  
HUSBAND.



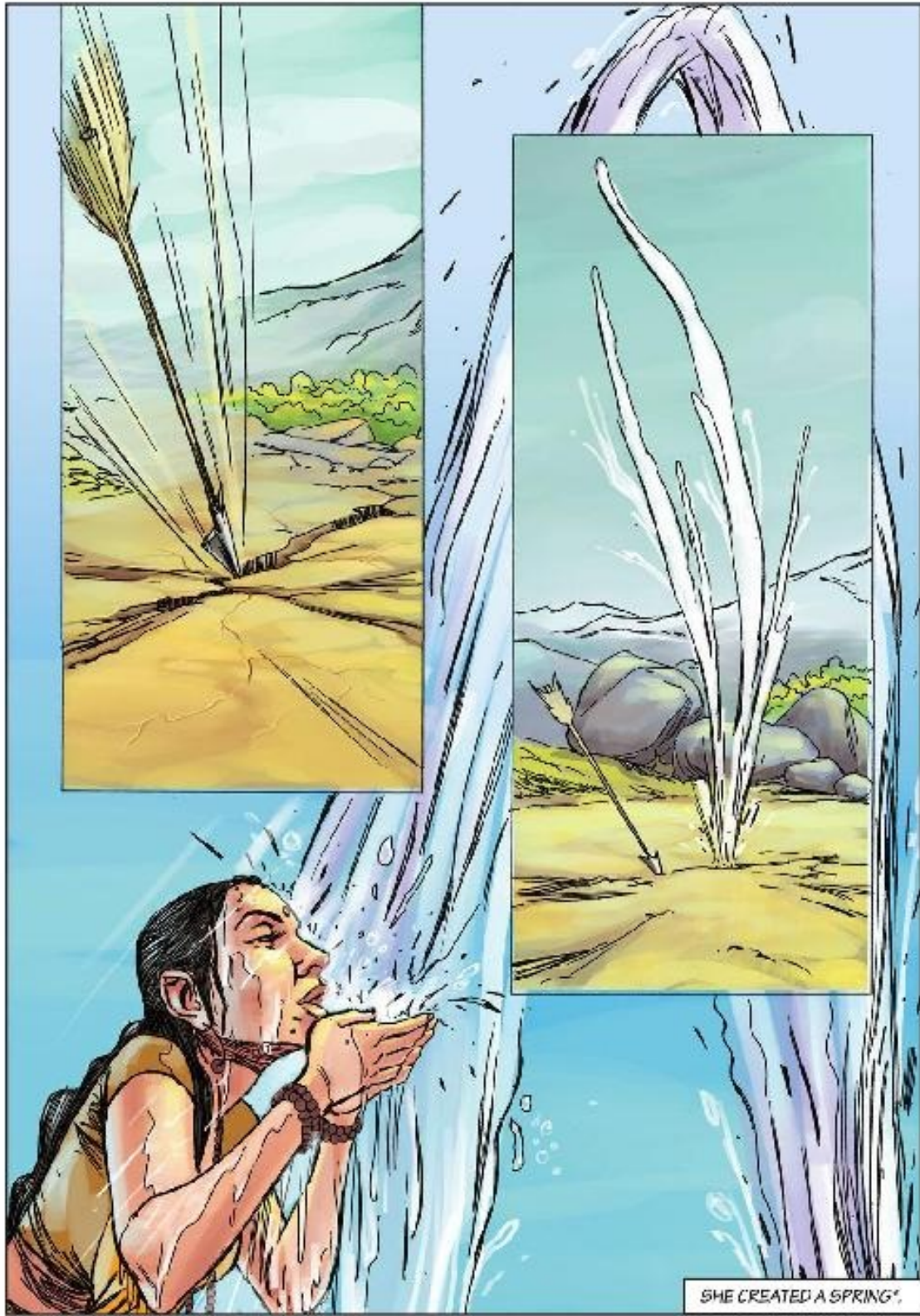
UNDETERRED, BHAIRON RELENTLESSLY PURSUED VAISHNAVI.





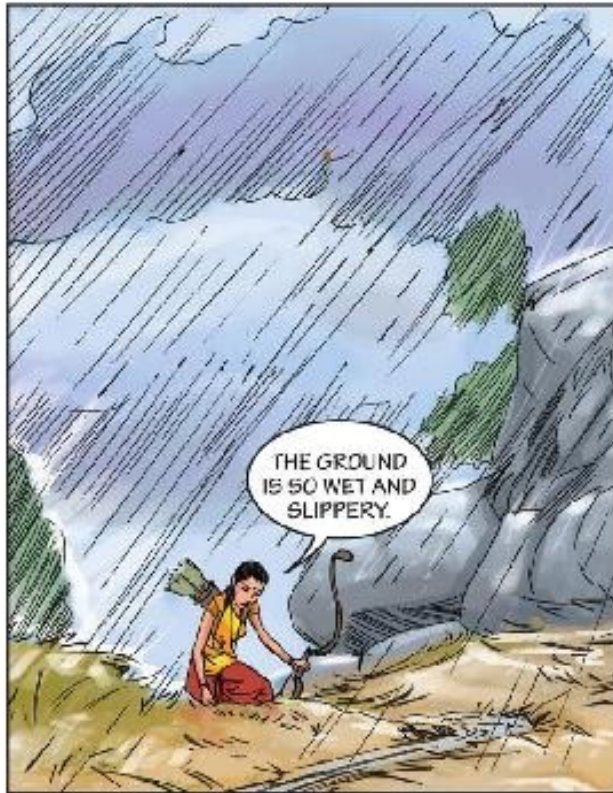






\* NOW CALLED BAN GANGA. BAN MEANS ARROW AND GANGA IS SYNONYMOUS WITH 'SACRED RIVER'.





\* THIS PLACE IS TODAY KNOWN AS CHARAN PADUKA OR FOOTPRINT.





SO SAYING, VAISHNAVI HID HERSELF DEEP IN THE CAVE...



... AND RESTED IN MEDITATION FOR NINE MONTHS.\*

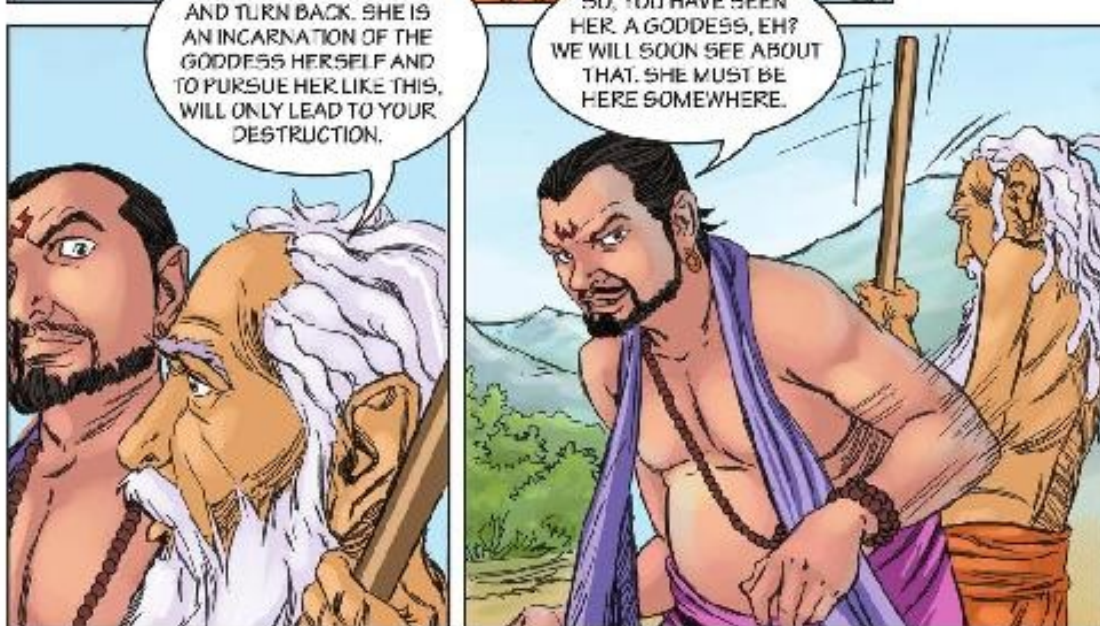
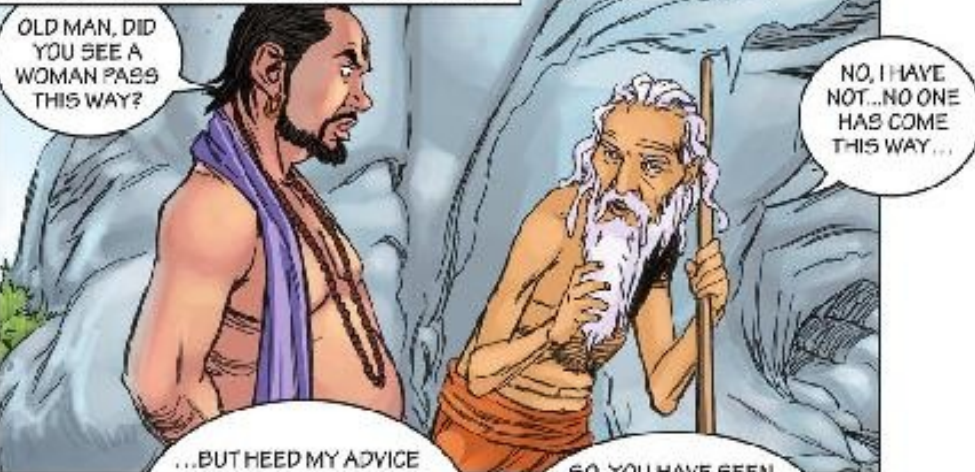


\* THIS PLACE IS KNOWN AS ADH KUNWARI. THE CAVE IS A VAISHNAVI RESTED AS A BABY RESTS IN THE WOMB OF T

CALLLED GARBH JON SIGNIFYING THE NINE MONTHS 10THER.



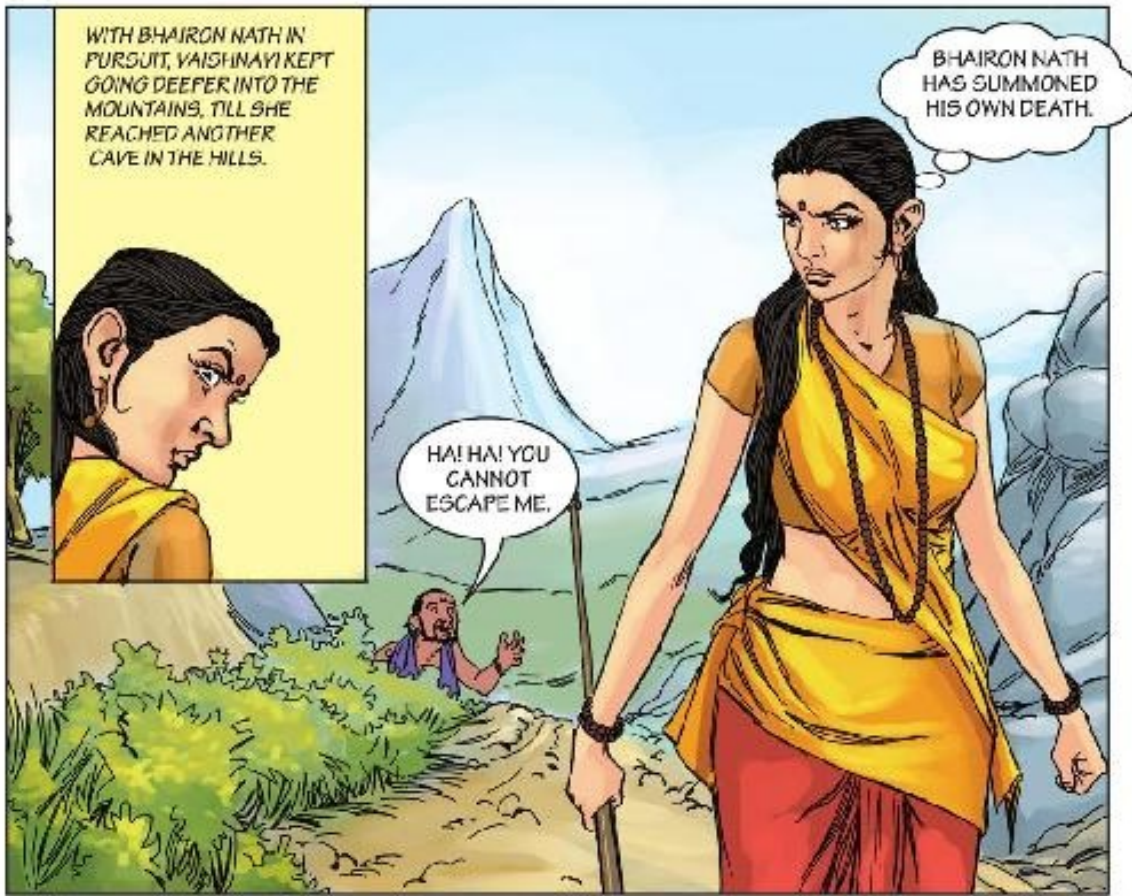
BUT BHAIRON NATH DID NOT GIVE UP AND ONE DAY -



BHAIRON NATH DIVINED WHERE VAISHNAVI WAS HIDING.

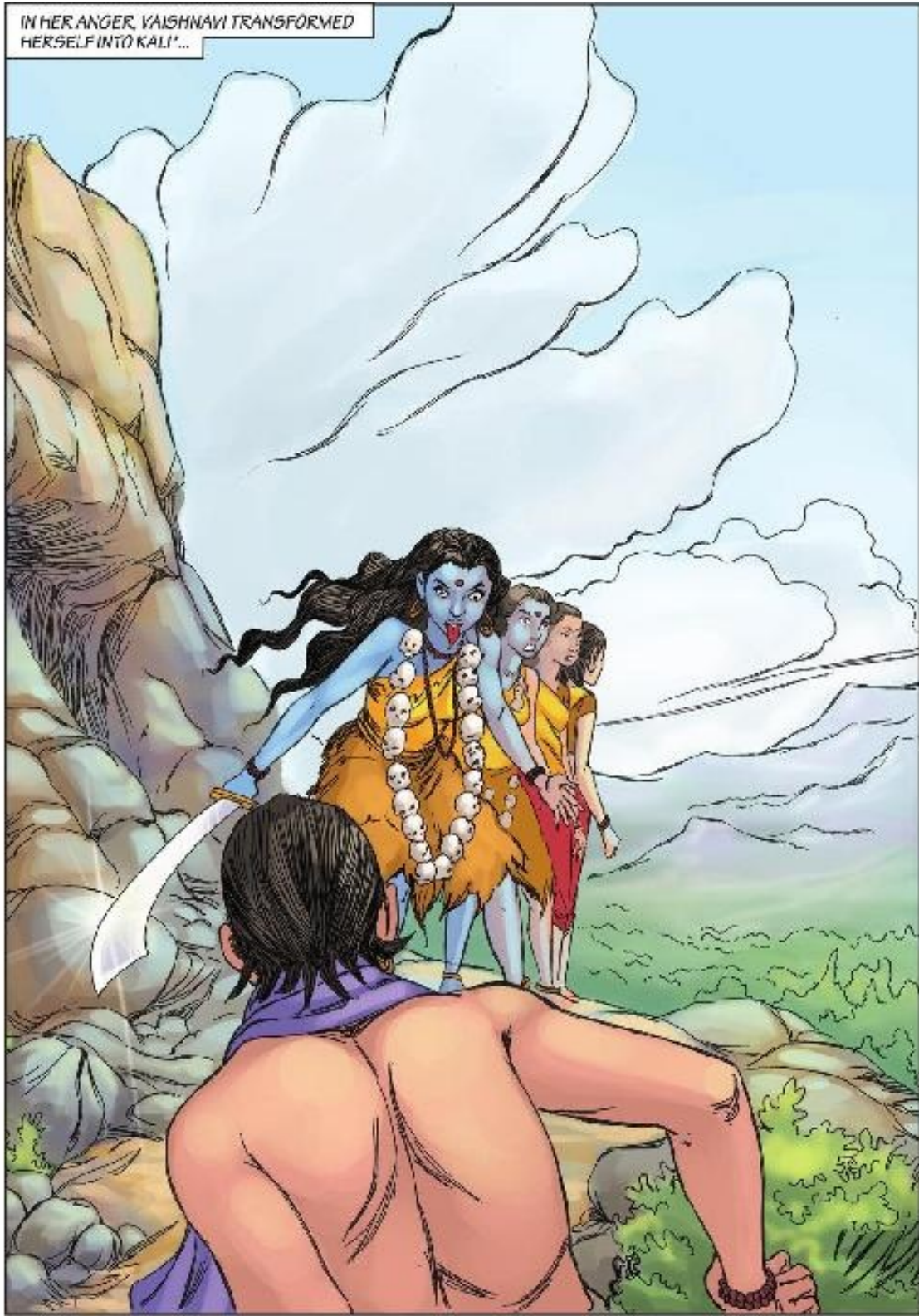






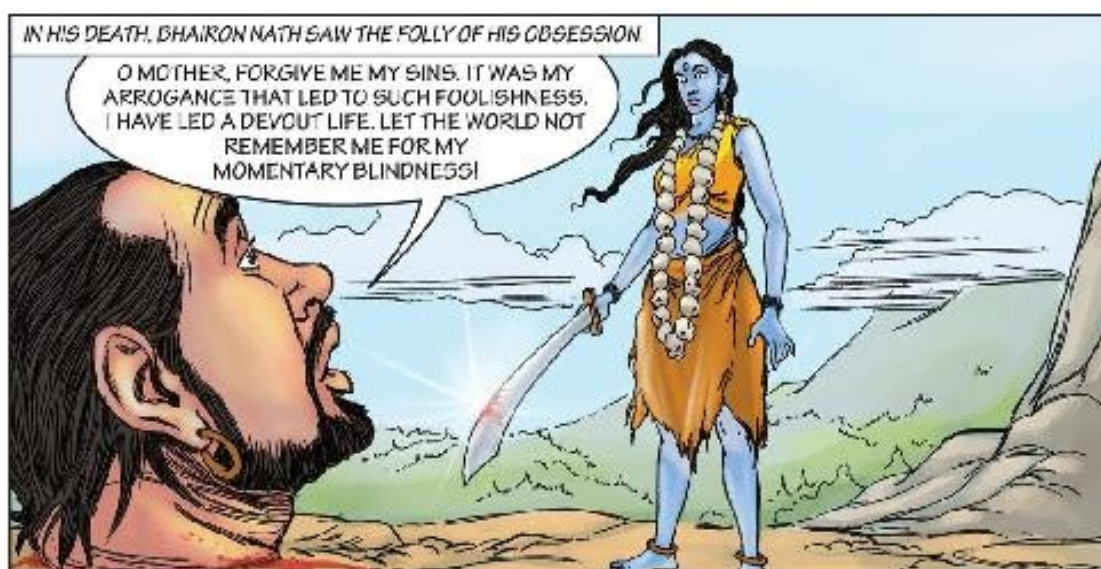
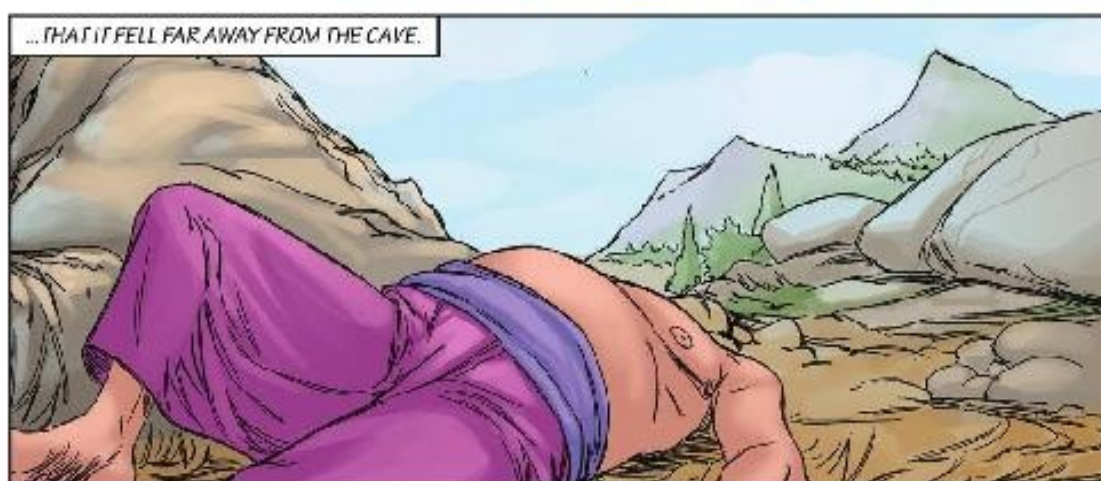
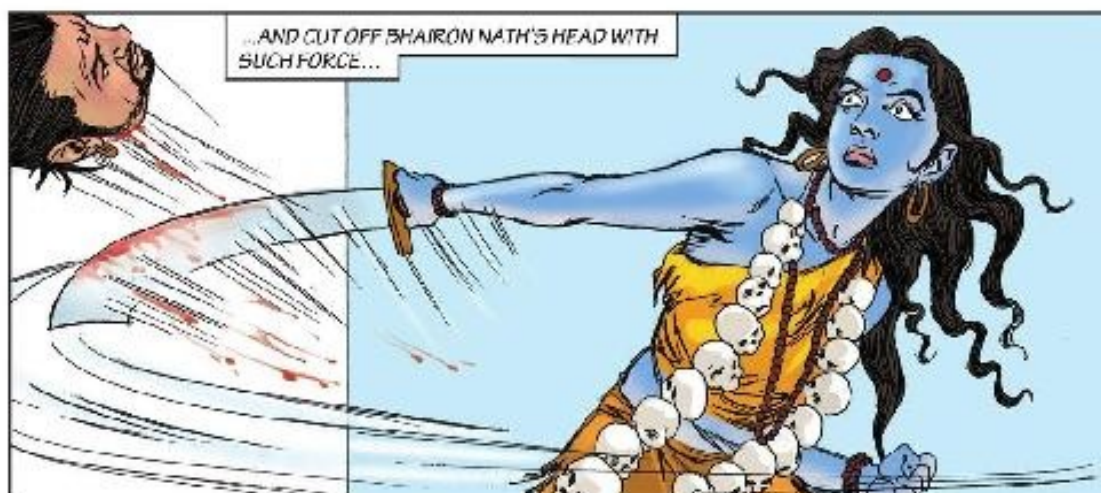


IN HER ANGER, VAISHNAVI TRANSFORMED  
HERSELF INTO KALI\*...



\* GODDESS OF CHANGE AND DESTRUCTION









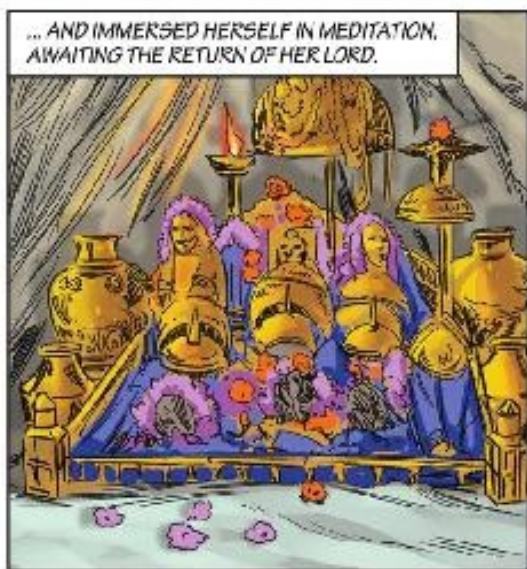
SO SAYING, VAISHNAVI WENT BACK INTO HER CAVE...



... ASSUMED THE FORM OF A ROCK WITH THREE HEADS, SIGNIFYING MAHA KALI, MAHA LAKSHMI AND MAHA SARASWATI\*



... AND IMMERSSED HERSELF IN MEDITATION, AWAITING THE RETURN OF HER LORD.



\* THE GREATER FORMS OF THE THREE GODDESSES



THE PLACE VAISHNAVI CHOSE TO MEDITATE IN, IS CALLED VAISHNO DEVI. IT IS IN THE STATE OF JAMMU. EVERY YEAR, MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE, TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO HER. SOME OF THE PLACES THEY STOP AT, ON THE WAY UP, ARE:

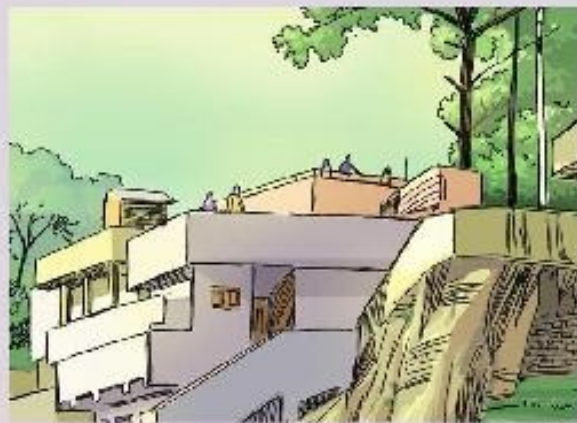


### DARSHANI DARWAAZA

THIS IS WHERE THE CLIMB TO THE HOLY SHRINE BEGINS. FROM THIS POINT, ONE CAN GET AN ENTIRE VIEW OF THE TRIKUTA MOUNTAINS. 'DARSHAN' MEANS 'TO VIEW' AND 'DARWAAZA' MEANS 'DOOR'.

### SANJHI CHATT

IT IS A SMALL PLATEAU ON THE WAY TO THE HOLY SHRINE AND IS FAMOUS FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF THE VALLEY. SITUATED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 6200 FT, SANJHI CHATT IS THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE ENTIRE JOURNEY. AT THIS SPOT, THE UPHILL TREK STOPS AND THE DOWNHILL TREK TO VAISHNO DEVI BHAVAN BEGINS.

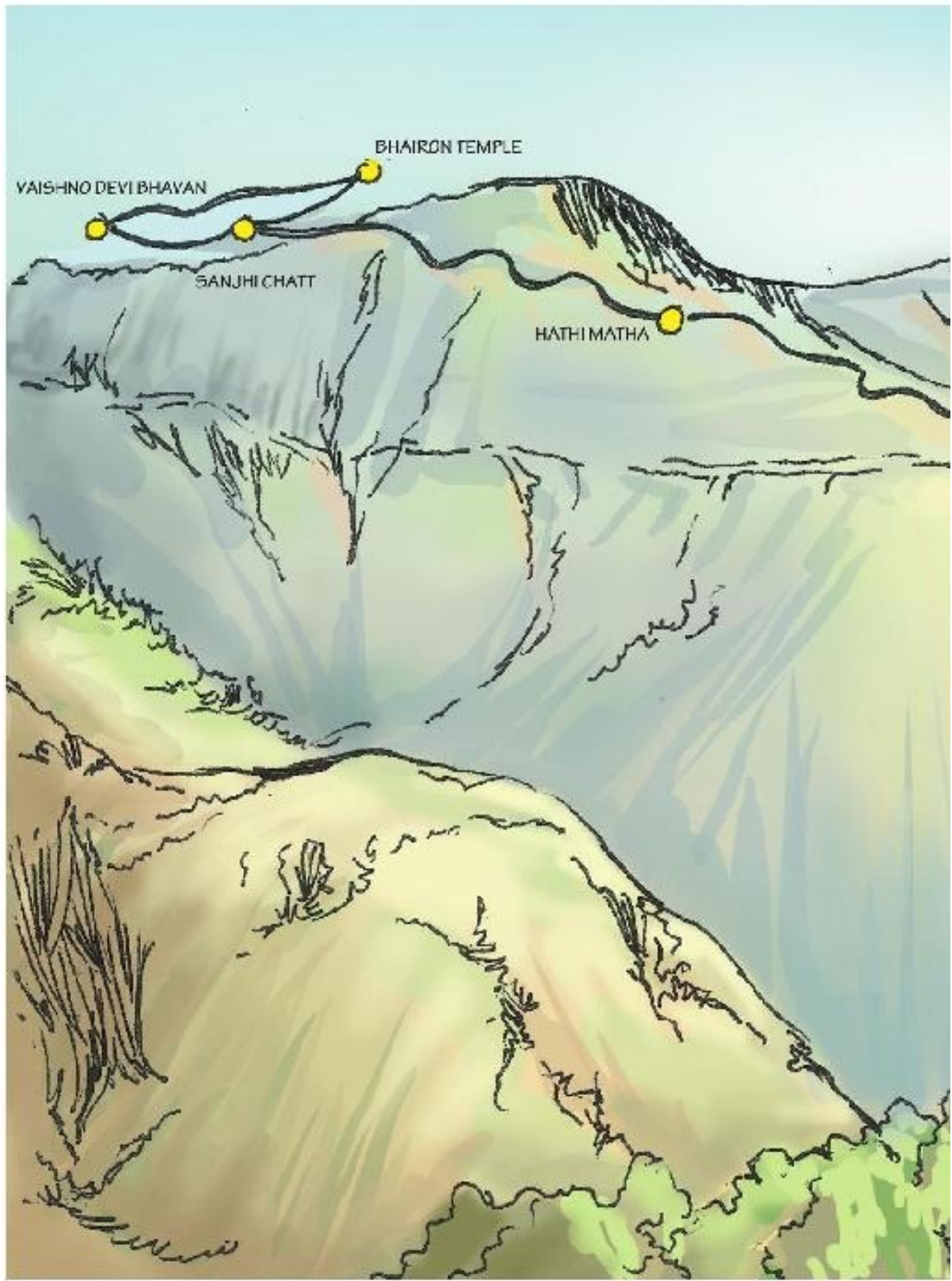


### AMRIT KUND

THIS PLACE STORES THE SACRED WATER CALLED 'CHARANAMRIT' WHICH FLOWS FROM THE FEET OF THE THREE PINDIES\*. DEVOTEES TAKE THIS HOLY WATER BACK WITH THEM AS IT IS BELIEVED TO PURIFY THEIR HEARTS AND HOMES

\* THE ROCK FORM OF THE GODDESS



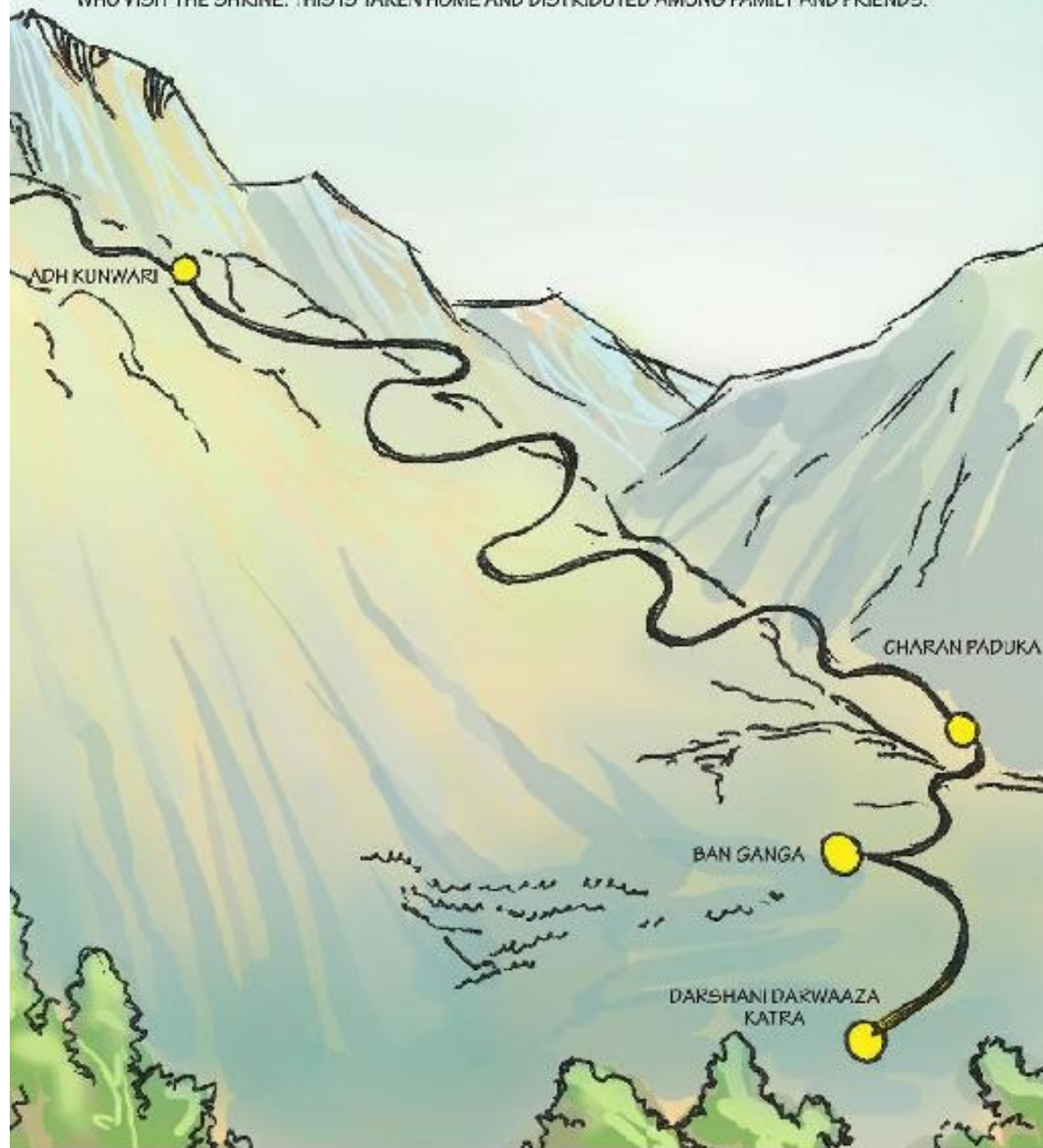




THE TOTAL DISTANCE TO THE SHRINE AT VAISHNO DEVI, STARTING FROM KATRA, IS 13 KMS. PILGRIMS PREFER WALKING THE ENTIRE DISTANCE, THOUGH THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE. ONE CAN CHOOSE TO UNDERTAKE THE JOURNEY ON A PONY, IN A PALANQUIN AND ALSO BY HELICOPTER.

ALL PILGRIMS GET A SPECIALLY MINTED COIN CALLED KHAZANA. THE COINS HAVE THE IMAGE OF THE THREE PINDIES ON IT. THE COIN IS SAID TO BRING PROSPERITY TO THE OWNER.

WALNUTS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE 'PRASADA' OR SACRED GIFT THAT IS GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO VISIT THE SHRINE. THIS IS TAKEN HOME AND DISTRIBUTED AMONG FAMILY AND FRIENDS.





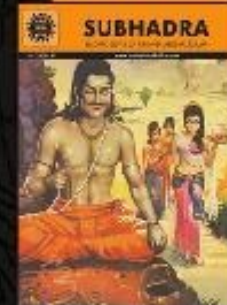
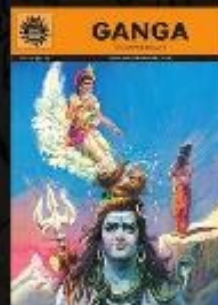
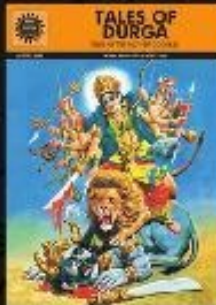
## VAISHNO DEVI

Bhoo Devi, the earth, was being ravaged by evil asuras. She turned to the gods for aid but even the powerful trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, were helpless.

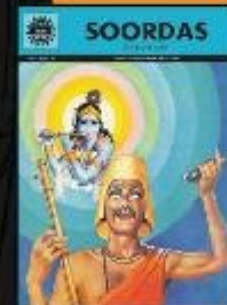
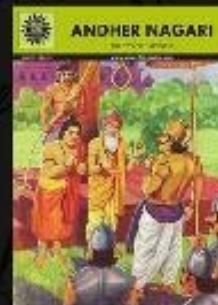
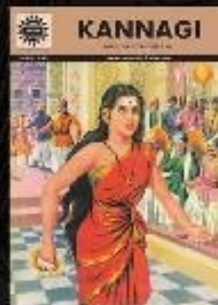
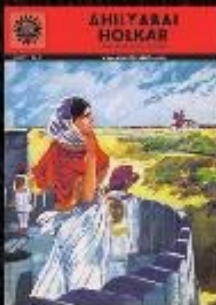
Concerned by the events, their consorts, Saraswati, Lakshmi and Parvati combined their powers and created Vaishnavi, a woman of unsurpassed strength. Vaishnavi fought and destroyed the asuras but the goddesses asked her to stay on and not return to heaven. Though Vaishnavi did not realise it, her story was only just beginning.

Amar Chitra Katha tells the story of Vaishnavi's transformation into the meditating goddess, Vaishno Devi, whose abode in the Himalayas is visited by millions of pilgrims every year.

### OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:



### ALSO LOOK FOR:



BRAVEHEARTS

INDIAN CLASSICS

FABLES & HUMOUR

VISIONARIES

Buy online at [www.amarchitrakatha.com](http://www.amarchitrakatha.com)

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

ISBN 81-8482-630-3



9 788184 182632